Civic facilities to homeless footpath dwellers

1174. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up plans to provide right shelters and sanitation facilities for the absolutely homeless footpath dwellers in major urban centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have issued modified guidelines to the State Governments and local authorities in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) With a view to ameliorating the housing condition of urban footpath dwellers, a Central scheme viz. Footpath Dwellers Night Shelter Scheme had been launched by Govt. in 1988-89. The scheme aimed at the provision of Central subsidy @ Rs. 1000 per beneficiary and HUDCO loan @ Rs. 4000 per beneficiary for construction of night shelters for urban footpath dwellers in Metropolitan cities.

(c) and (d) The guidelines of the scheme were revised in September, 1992. The revised scheme envisages construction of independent blocks of pay & use toilets for urban footpath dwellers at a per capita subsidy of Rs. 350 in addition to construction of Night Shelters with community baths & toilets for the use of urban homeless with a per capita subsidy of Rs. 1000. The revised scheme is a composite mix with remunerative components so as to reduce the loan burden of the beneficiary agency and to defray maintenance cost to some extent. Apart from State or local agencies, private agencies including voluntary organisations recommended or concurred in by State Govts. or their agencies, can be associated with the implementation and execution of projects under the scheme.

Conditions of the Indian cities

1175. SHRI MENTAY PADANA-BHAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor conditions of the Indian cities is the result of the extremely low priority given to urban development in the country;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are under contemplation of Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has prepared a scheme of infrastructure projects for the five Mega cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) Urban Development is a State subject and projects for the same are formulated by the State Governments. Funds for urban development schemes/projects are included in the State Plans. However, Government of India has introduced certain schemes for development of infrastructure in the small and medium towns and in the mega cities. Upto 565 towns have been covered under IDSMT and Central assistance of Rs. 189 crores released.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure in Mega cities has been approved in principle by the Planning Commission. The Mega City Scheme will be implemented in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras Hyderabad and Bangalore during 8th & 9th Five Year Plans. The pattern of funding will be 25 per cent by the Central Government, 25 per cent by the State Governments and 50 per cent by the financial institutions. The total requirement of funds for this scheme is estimated at around Rs. 5100 crores.

At present, 4 urban development projects are being implemented with the

assistance of World Bank as per detail given below:

	Project cost (Rs. in crores)
(i) Bombay Urban Development Project	554.00
(ii) Gujarat Urban Development Project	173.66
(iii) Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	632.60
(iv) Uttar Pradesh Urban Development Project	427.28

Under the World Bank Projects, different components like Solid Waste Management, Slum Upgradation, Water Supply and Sewerage, Traffic Management and Road Improvement, are taken up.

Misuse of funds by HUDCO

1176. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 1st October, 1993 to the effect that there was a big misuse funds by HUDCO recently; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to investigate the whole matter by the CBI apart from the probe that might have been undertaken by the CAG ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item captioned "CAG probe underway : Big fund misuse by HUDCO" appearing in the Hindustan times dated the 1st October, 1993 was misleading. A prompt rebuttal was sent to the Editor. The Hindustan Times which was published in the newspaper on the 28th October, 1993. The fact is that the CAG has not undertaken any probe of the alleged fund misuse by HUDCO, but is conducting supplementary annual audit under Section 619(4) of the Companies Act. Such supplementary audit is conducted every year subsequent to submission of statutory audit report of the CAG.

The accounts of the Government of India undertaking are not treated as final unless the Comptroller and Auditor Geenral's audit is complete. Pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, it is only after the balance sheet and profit and loss account has been placed before and considered by the General Body of the share holders of the company that they are finally accepted. Since the CAG's supplementary annual audit under Section 619(4) of Companies Act is on and the audit report is not finalised for consideration by the general body of the share holders of HUDCO, the publication of the news item at this juncture gives a misleading picture of the affairs of the HUDCO. The question of investigation into the matter by CBI at this stage, therefore, does not arise.

Implementation of NCR Plan

1177. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to go ahead with the implementation of